

529 Susan Lane
Deerfield, Illinois 60015
September 27th, 1991

Mr. Dwayne Harrington
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Edison, New Jersey 08837

Re: Request for Information
Date of Receipt: September 12, 1991

Dear Mr. Harrington;

In response to your "Request for Information", I am supplying the following responses. Since many of the responses are redundant, I will refer to the following statement ("Statement") as a suitable response to several of the questions:

"Synkote Paint Company, Inc., filed an Assignment for the Benefit of the Creditors in New Jersey Supreme Court on February 7th, 1985. At that time a Trustee was appointed by the Court (William Sywilok, Esq. of Hackensack, New Jersey). At that time, he assumed control of all property, ledgers, financial records, permits, documents, files, manifests, records, deeds, formulations, and other papers pertinent to Synkote Paint Company. The assets of the Company were sold at public auction on February 28th, 1985 and was later confirmed by the Court."

ANSWERS TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1)

- a. Synkote Paint Company, Inc. (see Statement)
- b. See Statement.
- c. See Statement.
- d. See Statement.
- e. See Statement.
- f. Do not know of any.
- g. n/a

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1) [continued]

h. See Statement. Real property was foreclosed by National Community Bank and sold at a Sheriff's Sale sometime in March 1988.

i. 1) Richard Max was the President of the company in 1979 and up to the filing of the Assignment in 1985. He was the sole officer of the Company and was responsible for management, and was the technical director as well.

2) Richard Max owned 25 shares of the Company which had no known value.

2)

a. Synkote Paint Company, Inc.

b. Richard E. Max, formerly President
529 Susan Lane
Deerfield, Illinois 60015

c. State of New Jersey

d. See Statement.

e. n/a

f. Do not know of any.

g. n/a

h. Deed to property was in the safe at Synkote which was turned over to Trustee on February 7th, 1985.

i. 1) Richard Max, President (see i-1 above).

2) see i 2 above.

3) July 3rd, 1968. Copy of deed is not in my possession (See Statement).

4) Previous owner is Seymour Devick. He resides somewhere near Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Telephone number unknown.

5) Site was Synkote Paint Company, engaged in the manufacture of Industrial Coatings. The same nature of business was continued at the site.

6) a. Synkote had all of the necessary permits issued according to RCRA including a permit to Generate Waste. I no longer have the permit number(s) (see Statement).

b. See Statement. Company did have valid Certificate of Occupancy issued by the Borough of Elmwood Park and received annual fire inspections. In addition, Company was inspected by Department of Labor (OSHA) inspectors and various N.J. EPA inspectors, to the best of my recollection.

7) During my ownership, there were no transactions as described in Question 7, a. through e.

8) I have no knowledge of any waste material being disposed of at the site prior to my ownership or during my ownership. All waste was taken from the site and disposed of in the then approved manner. No investigations were conducted at the time of purchase in 1968, other than a title search.

9) Once again, to my knowledge, no waste materials were ever treated or disposed of at the site. In the normal course of events, wastes were generated in the cleaning of vessels and tanks and with various obsolete products. All of these waste products were stored according to the regulations in effect at that time and were subsequently disposed of in the proper manner. When Waste Manifests came into use, they were always used to trace waste disposal. In addition, all wastes were transported by licensed haulers and disposed of at licensed treatment facilities. After the closure of the facility, all remnants of raw materials and finished inventory remaining on the site were removed by a licensed disposal company during a clean-up under ECRA.

a. Did not know of any contamination.

b. Did not know of any contamination.

10) While there were no known spills or releases that I was aware of at Synkote, there were always fugitive air emissions of various solvents caused by evaporation. These cannot be quantified and are non-specific, but related to the nature of the business which had been conducted. Other than that, my responses to #10 are as follows:

a. No known releases.

b. n/a

c. None

d. None

e. n/a

f. None

g. None

h. None

11) In response to #11, there were no known releases. In addition, there was no subsurface disposal system and no floor drains either inside the building, under the building, or outside the building. (a - f)

12)

- a. No services performed.
- b. Manufactured primarily solvent-based industrial coatings including Baked Enamels, Air-Dried Enamels, Primers, Lacquers, and other specialty finishes.

13)

There was really only one waste stream at Synkote and that was dirty solvents generated by the washing of mixing vessels and tanks. Occasionally an obsolete raw material or finished product found it's way into this waste stream but the content of the waste were the same: dirty, spent solvent with miscellaneous resins and pigments.

- a. Washing dirty process vessels and tanks.
- b. Spent solvent with dissolved resins and pigments.
- c. Approximately 2000 gallons per quarter.
- d. Wastes were stored in drums, in a specified area. All wastes were disposed of by incineration or redistillation by licensed waste treatment facilities. Waste drums were marked and dated and were stored on site at Synkote for no more than 90 days.
- e. As President of Synkote at the time it was in operation (after 1968), I was solely responsible for the handling on site at Synkote and for the selection of the treatment/disposal company for the ultimate disposal of the waste.
- f. Periodic analyses were conducted by the licensed disposal companies to determine if the waste was as stated. No shipments to these disposal companies was ever refused because of an unsuitable nature. No documents exist any longer.
- g. See Statement. There were copies of Manifests sent to the N.J. EPA, received back from the disposer after receipt, invoices from the disposer, cancelled checks from the disposers, etc. None of these documents exists any longer to the best of my knowledge.

14) g. paint

h. thinner

i. solvents

15) There was one (1) underground storage tank at the site containing fuel oil for the oil burner. This tank contained approximately 1000 gallons when full.

a. Unknown. Older than 1968. No other USTs known to exist or to have previously existed.

b. Unknown.

c. The single UST on site only contained fuel oil.

16) During my ownership, several solvents were stored in a diked solvent storage area in the rear of the site. There were 7, 2000 gallon above-ground storage tanks which contained some of the following solvents:

Toluol (Toluene)
Xylol (Xylene)
Lacquer Thinner
Isopropyl Alcohol
Methyl Ethyl Ketone
Mineral Spirits
Solvesso 150
n-Butyl Acetate
n-Butyl Alcohol
Butyl Cellosolve
VM & P Naphtha

See sketch attached for approximate location of chemical storage.

17) No.

18) Yes.

a. National Community Bank was the principle commercial bank used by Synkote and provided normal deposit/checking services for the company. In addition, they provided financing for several vehicles, specific equipment, and operating capital.

b. There were several loans for specific equipment such as 2 Econoline Vans, a computer, and a processing mill. These loans had the individual property as collateral. There were also a series of related loans to provide capital to the company, starting in 1978, I believe where the real property was pledged as the collateral. At some point, my wife and I personally guaranteed these loans.

19) No. None that I am aware of.

20) No. None that I am aware of.

21)

a. Payments on the loans to National Community Bank were sporadic throughout 1983 and 1984 due to the financial difficulties at Synkote following the recession in 1981 and 1982. Payments ceased sometime in 1984 and discussions were held with National Community Bank about refinancing but this never came to pass.

b. I personally do not recall when the foreclosure proceedings began, but the Sheriff's Sale on the commercial real estate was in March 1988 and the foreclosure on our home in River Vale, NJ took effect on December 31st, 1989.

c. I am unclear as to the meaning of this question.

d. I am unaware of the exact date of the judgment at this time.

e. There were actually two Sheriff's sales; one at the beginning of March 1988 and the second one three weeks later at the end of March 1988. Mr. Morton Hirschklau, Esq., of Fair Lawn, NJ, attorney for National Community Bank could provide the exact dates. The successful bidder at the first Sheriff's sale failed to provide the payment necessary. By the time this was evident, all the bidders had left so a second sale was set. The successful bidder at the second sale was Raymond Topping of Clifton, NJ. He was also the individual with whom I had a contract of sale for the property but could not convey title due to the ECRA requirements.

22) Not to the best of my knowledge. Again, to the best of my knowledge, there has never been a spill or release at the site.

23) Same as 22.

24) See Statement.

25) I no longer have any personal financial information for 1983, 1984, or 1985. [a. & b.]

26) See Statement. I have no personal recollection of any of the specifics of this question.

27)

a. None.

b. Household furnishings and clothing - estimated value \$5000. total. My wife and I filed under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Laws on July 27th, 1989 and are converting the filing to Chapter 7 as of September 30th, 1991.

27) [continued]

c. None.

d. None.

e. Personal checking account - First Chicago Bank
Balance as of 9/30/91.....\$227.03

f. None.

g. No.

28) No additional information.

29) Richard E. Max

529 Susan Lane

Deerfield, Illinois 60015

(708) 940-0605

Title: None

Occupation: Chemist

Has personal knowledge of responses.

No other person assisted in any way in the responses
although all of the responses have been reviewed by an
attorney.

**CERTIFICATION OF ANSWERS TO THE
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

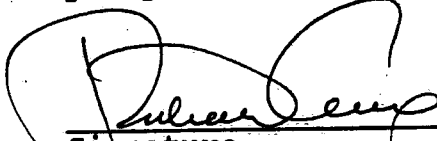
I hereby affirm and certify under penalty of perjury that the following facts are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- a. That I have personally examined and am familiar with all the information provided herein in response to this Request for Information (this "Request");
- b. That all the answers contained herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my information and belief;
- c. That all documents contained herein are complete and authentic unless otherwise indicated, and
- d. That in the preparation of the responses contained herein, I have contacted and discussed the issues contained in this Request with all present and former employees and agents of Synkote Paint Inc. whom I have reason to believe may have been familiar with any of the issues and questions contained in this Request.

I am aware that substantial fines and penalties, including imprisonment, exist for submitting false, misleading, or inaccurate information in response to this Request.

I am also aware that I am under a continuing obligation to submit to EPA any additional information which comes to its attention which would either supplement or modify any of its responses to this Request.

RICHARD MAX
Name of Official


Signature

Title

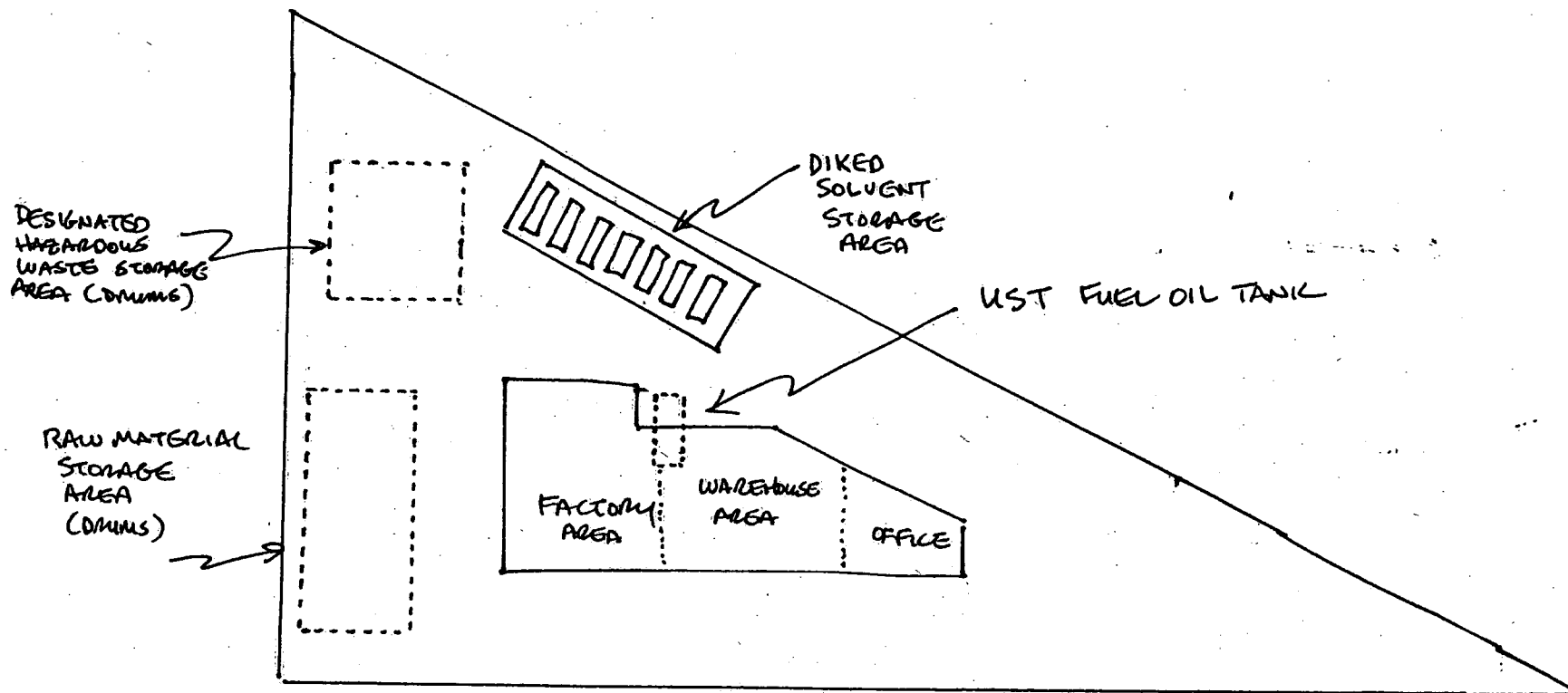
9/30/91
Date

(708) 940-0605
Phone Number

Address

Notary: Judith Shadders

My commission expires: May, 1992



[NOT TO SCALE]

SYNKOTE PAINT
DRAWN BY RICHARD MAX
almski